

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 SSC-01 A-01 CCO-00 FBO-01 NEA-10 NIC-01 OC-06

OPR-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-10 USSS-00 CU-04 RSR-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /136 W
----- 049963

O R 242358Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5305

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES AWAITED

REF: SANTIAGO 3794

1. SUMMARY. DAY OF POLITICAL COMINGS-AND-GOINGS WAS MARKED BY VIOLENCE IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO AND PLETHORA OF RUMORS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET CHANGES EXPECTED ALL DAY PUT OFF TO MONDAY. PRES ALLENDE ISSUED STATEMENT REJECTING CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ACTION OF AUG 22. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPITE OF VARIOUS MEETINGS AND CONTINUED RUMORS ALL DAY, NO NEW MINDEFENSE OR OTHER CABINET CHANGES HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY EARLY EVENING AUG 24. AS OF A SHORT WHILE AGO, NEWSCASTS HAVE BEEN REPORTING CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE AUG 27.

3. GEN PINOCHET ASSUMED DUTIES AS ARMY CINC IN CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY 1700 HOURS; ALL ARMY GENERALS REPORTEDLY
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ATTENDED, THEN STAYED FOR CLOSED DOOR MEETING. SUBMISSION

OF "INDECLINABLE" RESIGNATIONS OF ARMY GENERALS MARIO SEPULVEDA AND GUILLERMO PICKERING WAS PUBLICLY CONFIRMED EARLIER IN DAY. MEANWHILE, ALL CABINET MEMBERS CALLED ON FORMER ARMY CINC CARLOS PRATS THIS MORNING TO PAY RESPECTS, AND NUMEROUS PRO-GOVT LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) ISSUED STATEMENTS PRAISING HIM. UNDER SECS AND OTHER LEADERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE MADE SIMILAR CALLS ON PRATS IN AFTERNOON. RADIOS REPORT ADM. MONTERO HAS "RESUMED" DIRECT COMMAND OF NAVY, PRESUMABLY RESIGNING FINANCE PORTFOLIO. IN EARLY EVENING NEW ARMY CINC PINOCHET ISSUED DENIAL THAT UNITS IN VALPARAISO PROVINCE HAVE LEFT QUARTERS AND ARE ON MOVE, EMPHASIZING THAT ALL RUMORS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS OF THIS KIND ARE FALSE.

4. VIOLENCE IN DOWNTOWN AREA FOLLOWED MIDDAY RALLY OF OPPOSITION SECONDARY STUDENTS FEDERATION (FESES) IN WHICH SPEAKERS VOWED TO ATTEND SCHOOLS MONDAY WHETHER THEY ARE OPEN OR NOT. PRO-UP AND OPPOSITION STREET BRIGADES JOINED STUDENTS AND POLICE IN STONE-THROWING, STREET BARRICADES, WATER CANNON, AND TEAR GAS. STORES CLOSED, AND ONE OR ANOTHER GROUP BURNED TROLLEYBUS AND ONE TRUCK. INCIDENTS CONTINUED INTO LATE AFTERNOON. SOME VIOLENCE REPORTED IN PROVIDENCIA AREA AS WELL. PRO-GOVT SECONDARY STUDENTS ANNOUNCED RALLY AT UNCTAD BUILDING FOLLOWED BY MARCH TO LA MONEDA. GUARD AT LA MONEDA VISIBLY AND NOTABLY REINFORCED.

5. AT 1900 HOURS, SEC GEN OF GOVT ISSUED STATEMENT IN NAME OF PRAG ALLENDE WHICH WAS READ ON UP RADIO NETWORK. ALLENDE DENOUNCED CHAMBER RESOLUTION ON ALLEGED ILLEGAL GOVT ACTS AS "SEDITIONOUS" AND "DESIGNED TO INCITE COUP AND CIVIL WAR." IMPEACHMENT IS ONLY LEGAL WAY TO REMOVE A PRESIDENT, AND VOTERS BARRED THAT PATH TO OPPOSITION MARCH 4. FURTHER, STATEMENT CONTINUED, OPPOSITION IS ILLEGALLY TRYING TO FORCE MILITARY INTO TAKING POLITICAL STANCE, USURP EXECUTIVE'S POWER, AND ESTABLISH CONGRESS AS A "PARALLEL POWER" IN OPEN VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS, STATEMENT AFFIRMED, "I AM OBLIGED TO ASSUME AND UTILIZE ALL THOSE POWERS GIVEN ME BY CONSTITUTION."

6. PDC ISSUED REBUTTAL TO GOVT STATEMENT (REFTEL), DENYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RESOLUTION WAS IN ANY WAY "SUBVERSIVE" OR "GOLPISTA." PS STATEMENT (ABOVE) REITERATED PARTY IS ON "WAR FOOTING" TO DEFEAT ANY COUP ATTEMPT" FROM WHEREVER IT MAY COME" UP MEDIA CONTINUE TO STRESS ALLEGED DESIRE OF JARPA-FREI OPPOSITION TO INSTIGATE COUP.
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